

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01853 091425Z

46

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1853

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TAGS: PFOR, AU, HU

SUBJ: TALKS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS,
MARCH 2-3

1. LATEST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN AUSTRIAN FONMIN BIELKA AND
HUNGARIAN FONMIN PUJA, WHICH OCCURRED IN CAPITALS OF BORDERING
PROVINCES, MARCH 2-3, FOLLOWED PRETTY MUCH ANTICIPATED
SCENARIO, ACCORDING TO MFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD
AMBASSADOR STEINER WHO TOOK PART IN TALKS.

2. ON BILATERAL SIDE HUNGARY AGREED TO OPENING OF NEW BORDER
CROSSING AT SCHACHENDORF/BUCSU ON OCTOBER 1 AND TO
LONG-PENDING CONSTRUCTION OF AUSTRIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN
BUDAPEST. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS FIXING OF VISIT BY
PRIME MINISTER LAZAR TO AUSTRIA IN MAY, IN RETURN FOR
KREISKY 1973 VISIT, FOR SIGNING OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT.
PUJA PROMISED "TO STUDY" AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS ON SMALL
BORDER TRAFFIC AND ON ABOLISHMENT OF VISA REQUIREMENTS.
ACCORDING TO STEINER, EXPECTATION IS THAT PROCESSING
OF VISA APPLICATIONS WILL BE SPEEDED UP BUT FORWARD
MOVEMENT ON BORDER TRAFFIC AND VISA ABOLISHMENT IS
UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF HUNGARIAN OBSERVATIONS ABOUT
"SHORTAGE OF HOTEL SPACE" AND "POTENTIAL THREAT
OF SMUGGLING" OF INEXPENSIVE HUNGARIAN FOODSTUFFS

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 01853 091425Z

UNDER ANY SMALL BORDER TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT.

3. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES,
PUJA STAYED VERY CLOSE TO CURRENT COMMUNIST SCRIPT.
CSCE FINAL ACT WAS PRAISED AND BOTH SIDES AGREED IT MUST
BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED AS PREREQUISITE FOR FURTHER DETENTE.
IMPORTANCE OF MBFR TALKS UNDERLINED AND "SLOW PROGRESS"
TO DATE DEPLORED.

4. PUJA ENGAGED IN MINOR SQUABBLE WITH AUSTRIAN REPORTERS
AT MARCH 2 PRESS CONFERENCE IN GRAZ WHEN ASKED WHY
HUNGARY WAS NOT PERMITTING PUBLIC SALE OF AUSTRIAN
NEWSPAPERS ACCORDING TO CSCE FINAL ACT. PUJA SAID
IMPORTATION OF WESTERN PRESS COULD BE ALLOWED ONLY IF
PAPERS CONTAINED "NO SLANDEROUS ARTICLES ABOUT
HUNGARY" AND WENT ON HALF-JOKINGLY THAT HUNGARIANS ARE
EVEN BETTER INFORMED THAN AUSTRIANS SINCE THEY HAVE
ACCESS TO AUSTRIAN RADIO AND TV IN ADDITION TO
OFFERINGS OF HUNGARIAN AND OTHER EE MEDIA.

5. STEINER CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS ROUTINE IN NATURE
BUT NON-ACCOMMODATING ON SUBSTANCE. HE HAD DISTINCT
IMPRESSION THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASONS, HUNGARIANS WERE
TAKING STAND-PAT STANCE ON NON-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF BILATERAL
ACTIVITIES WHERE AUSTRIANS HAD HOPE FURTHER EXPANSION WOULD BE
POSSIBLE.BUCHANAN

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